

Rideshare Review

A bimonthly publication from Capitol Rideshare

January/February 2019



Waze: navigation app offers a carpool solution

Two ADOA employees download the app, explore the carpool possibilities

[Waze](#), Google's navigation app, launched a [carpool feature](#) nationwide in late 2018. The Waze navigation app allows drivers to seek passengers. However, passengers seeking rides must download a separate app, [Waze Carpool](#). The passenger sets up a profile, which includes ride schedule and route, and must include a payment method (passengers are charged a varying price per ride). If a person wants to drive some days and be a passenger other days, he/she must download both apps. The more information a person includes in his/her profile, the greater the chance he/she will find drivers or passengers. For instance, including a work email address will allow you to see others along your route whose profile includes their work email address.

Using this as a starting point, Capitol Rideshare's Mary Marshall set up a profile (rider) and discovered that an employee in ASET, Benjamin Vandenberg, also commutes to ADOA from Ahwatukee. Mary sent Ben a text via the app and he responded. Because the two ADOA employees work one floor apart, they were able to meet in person. From there, they scheduled a trial run using the app. They shared their experience with Capitol Rideshare.

Q: What was the impetus for setting up a Waze carpool profile?

Ben: I have used Waze (navigation) since 2012 (before Google bought them) and have found a lot of value in the traffic and rerouting that it does in my travels. The app kept "bugging" me to try the new feature and I was interested in possibly finding a carpooler for the regular commute into work.

Mary: I wanted to try this out and share my experience with the *Rideshare Review* readers. I wanted to learn how this worked, what types of concerns other Waze users had and whether this would offer a viable solution for state employees who want to carpool part-time, full-time or occasionally.

Q: What were you expecting when you did?

Ben: I was expecting it to find folks that had a relatively similar schedule, origin, and destination. What I found was a "marketplace" of sorts that operates in a similar fashion as Uber and Lyft, allowing for folks along my route to be picked up and dropped off all while facilitating a payment system for them to help with gas money.

Mary: Honestly, I didn't set any expectations. Working at Capitol Rideshare and assisting state employees has taught me a great deal about how employees regard alternate modes, including carpooling. State employees have differing comfort levels with sharing the ride with strangers. I come from the east coast, where riding with strangers in crowded cities is business as usual ([slug lines](#)). Other people do not have that same comfort level.

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Save the Date: April 17 is Bike to Work Day!

Join Capitol Rideshare, Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix on April 17, 2019, for the 14th Annual Bike to Work Day! Cycling enthusiasts of all skill levels are encouraged to participate! Participants will need to bring their own bikes, or use the Social Bicycle app to find and rent a bike (this includes GRID Bike Share).

There will be an official group ride that begins in midtown and ends at CityScape (Washington and Central) in downtown Phoenix; these riders will have a police escort. If the group ride doesn't work, you are encouraged to ride directly to CityScape and join the festivities on site!

Don't have a bike? Get a FREE seven-day pass from GRID Bike Share. Use promo code GRID2WORK2019 after downloading the Social Bicycles mobile app and sign up to find a bike near you. Please note: This seven-day pass activates immediately after your purchase. If you plan to use this for Bike to Work Day, it's recommended that you wait to purchase the week of the event.

Better yet, take advantage of the discounted plan that Capitol Rideshare has negotiated with [GRID Bike Share to offer state employees](#). It's only \$30 for an annual plan and it's an ideal option for commuters who take the bus or light rail, but need to travel beyond the transit stop.

Registration for the Annual Bike to Work Day begins in March; the registration link will be posted on [Maricopa County's web page](#) dedicated to the event. Be sure to register early if you want breakfast, the chance to win prizes and the other goodies. Capitol Rideshare will have a table at CityScape; be sure to stop by and say hello!

Design a Transit Wrap 19th annual contest!

Deadline: February 15, 2019

Each year, Valley Metro sponsors a Transit Wrap design contest for local high school students. The winning design, along with the artist's name, will be featured on a Valley Metro bus and light rail train car for an entire year! To enter, high school artists must create an original design with a positive transit message. Information about the contest, including submission requirements, contest application and artwork template, can be found on [Valley Metro's website](#).

Last year's winner was Lyndzi Ramos, a sophomore at Peoria High School. Second place winner was Ruben Escobar Reyes from Marcos de Niza High School and third place winner was Brant Bloxom from Desert Mountain High school.

Annual Travel Reduction Survey rolling out later this month

Each year, all large employers in Maricopa County, including the State of Arizona, survey their employees regarding their commuting habits as required by law. Your participation in this survey is critical! Survey data allows Capitol Rideshare to secure bus subsidies, provide input on bus routes, and make suggestions for the light rail system.

Formerly known as the Think Pink survey, the travel reduction survey is delivered on a rolling schedule, with groups of agencies taking the survey over a two-week period at varying times. In the coming weeks, you will be receiving the official email survey link to complete your survey. Simply click on the link, provide the necessary information, and submit. It's easy and quick; it only takes 4-6 minutes to complete.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page in the survey section of the Capitol Rideshare website. Or, call 602.542.7433 and speak with Capitol Rideshare staff regarding your concerns.

Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program 2019 Notice to Employees

BACKGROUND:

To improve air quality and reduce vehicle emissions in heavily traveled areas, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) administers a mandatory vehicle emissions inspection program known as the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP).

Arizona law (A.R.S. §49-542) requires vehicle emission inspection and testing for:

- Most vehicles registered in the Area A vehicle emissions control area of greater metro Phoenix (including parts of Maricopa County and parts of Pinal County and Yavapai County as defined by A.R.S. §49-541) and/or
- Most vehicles registered outside of Area A used to commute to a work site located within Area A.

For a map of the Area A vehicle emissions control area boundary and a link to the legal description, please visit the ADEQ website, azdeq.gov/environ/air/vei/images/areaa.html.

IF YOU LIVE AND WORK IN ARIZONA:

- Any vehicle you own and operate in Arizona must be registered in Arizona and display a valid Arizona license plate (some exceptions apply). For more information, please contact the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Motor Vehicle Division at 602-255-0072 or visit their website at azdot.gov/mvd.
- Any vehicle you use to drive to an Area A worksite is required to go through vehicle emissions testing. This applies even if you live outside of Area A.
- For employees who live outside of Area A, a proof of compliance form will be issued to you by the emissions testing facility at the time of emissions testing. Testing results, which are also sent electronically to ADOT, are needed for registration. After you submit your registration request, by mail or online, you will receive a registration tag for your license plate. For vehicles that are registered out-of-state (students/part-time employees) and that are parked on federal, state, or city parking properties, you will need to obtain an air quality compliance sticker for your driver's window from ADOT. For more information, please call the ADEQ VEIP Hotline at 1-877-692-9227 (1-877-myAZcar) or visit their website at myazcar.com.

In addition to any other criminal penalty provided by law, a person who does not comply with this law is subject to a civil penalty of \$100 for a first violation and \$300 for a second violation.

Q: Have you reached out to anyone (other than each other)?

Ben: I have not reached out to anyone else. I specifically added my work email to my profile in hopes that others within the State would see me and reach out. I also periodically check to see if anyone from work is there and haven't found anyone. Because of the lack of security and verification of riders and recent events, I have opted not to provide rides to random folks that are along my route.

Mary: I've set up profiles as a driver and a rider. I didn't get any responses to a few requests for carpooling as the driver or as the passenger. As a driver, I didn't really find anyone that was truly on my course; there were options that routed me through Tempe, which isn't really on my route to Ahwatukee.

Carpooling is the most frequently used alternate mode among state employees according to data collected in the annual Travel Reduction Survey. In 2018, 35 percent of the respondents using alternate modes indicated they were carpooling. Capitol Rideshare is actively working on a solution that would resolve some of the issues Ben and Mary encountered. Using internal data and geocoding technology, Capitol Rideshare staff is working to build out a community of state employees seeking to carpool. With more than 14,000 state employees working in downtown and midtown Phoenix, there are a lot of potential matches! Ben and other state employees have told Capitol Rideshare that they would like to find carpool partners, but they only feel comfortable traveling with fellow state employees. In larger agencies, employees have an easier time finding carpool partners. But in agencies with fewer than 50 employees, it becomes more difficult. Capitol Rideshare hopes to develop a solution that would allow for state employees to find both long-term and short-term carpool partners. **We would like to hear from you! If you are currently carpooling, please let us know how you found your carpool partner. If you are interested in using a Capitol Rideshare solution to find a carpool partner, please let us know! Email us at RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov.**

Coordinator's Corner

Preparing for the Travel Reduction Survey

If you have not updated your agency's employee counts for the 2019 travel reduction survey, please be sure to get this done immediately. Contact Capitol Rideshare if you are having any problems.

Capitol Rideshare staff recently emailed the [slide deck](#) and link to the nine-minute [training webinar](#) for implementing the 2019 Travel Reduction Survey. The slide deck includes the 2019 schedule, so please be sure to read through the slide deck even if you are a veteran coordinator. Group one consists of the Department of Economic Security and Department of Corrections; these employees will receive their survey link on February 19. Group two includes all other agencies; these employees will receive their survey link on March 1.

New Employee Orientation and other presentations from Capitol Rideshare

Capitol Rideshare staff is available to present an overview of the state's travel reduction program and services to employees at your agency's new employee orientation (NEO). We also sent you the redesigned Capitol Rideshare brochures to be included in new hire packets when new state employees are onboarded. Capitol Rideshare also can come present about the programs for state employees at other types of events (Capitol Rideshare had a booth at the Special Olympics fundraiser that the Department of Public Safety held in the spring). Staff also can set up an information table during the lunch hours to assist employees with travel reduction queries. To order additional brochures or to request a Capitol Rideshare speaker, please send an email request, along with your times and dates, to RideshareHelp@azdoa.gov.

Capitol Rideshare is administered by the Arizona Department of Administration Office of Grants and Federal Resources; it is funded by the Federal Highway Administration through the Maricopa Association of Governments and by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Editor: Mary Marshall

Reminders

Platinum Pass: reconsider transit options at a reduced rate

The state offers a transit subsidy to employees who sign up for the Platinum Pass; there is no fee to apply for the pass. The current subsidy rate is 50 percent of the fare, up to half the cost of a monthly pass. Just print out the [application](#), complete it and send it to your agency's human resources unit. Learn more about this program on [Capitol Rideshare's website](#).

Emergency Ride Home services are only for Commuter Club members; register today

The primary benefit of [Commuter Club](#) membership are the two free emergency rides home per fiscal year (restrictions apply). Capitol Rideshare offers this service exclusively to employees who commit to using an alternate mode of transportation twice each week, then sign up for Commuter Club. Be sure you are registered through the online portal; if you are not sure, [please go to the online portal and check](#) to see if you have an account. If you did not use the portal to establish your account since July 1, 2018, you're NOT an active member.

GRID Bike Share renewals

For employees who signed up more than a year ago for the discounted annual GRID Bike Share membership, it's time to renew. Because this exclusive program is only available to state employees using a state email address, you must go through the group membership registration. If your membership has ended, [follow this link](#) and register through Capitol Rideshare's group plan.

Valley Metro 2019 holiday schedule

Employees who take transit are advised to check the [Valley Metro 2019 holiday schedule](#). President's Day will have limited transit service.



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